

<sup>COUNTRY</sup>  
The Judge Samuel Dexter House  
Ann Arbor Street  
Dexter, Michigan  
Washtenaw Co

<sup>MI-</sup>  
HABS No. 27-21

HABS  
MICH  
81-Dex.V  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT NO. 27

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Branson v. Gamber, District Officer  
3500 Union Guardian Building, Detroit, Michigan

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JUDGE SAMUEL DEXTER HOUSE  
Ann Arbor Street  
Half Miles North of Town of Dexter  
Washtenaw County  
Michigan

Owner: Crumrine Estate.

Date of Erection: 1842 or 1843 (index card); 1840 to 1843 (Kimball, F.,  
Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early  
Republic, 182.

Architect and Builder: No record.

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: Two,

Materials of Construction: Wood.

Other Existing Records: See text. <sup>1</sup>

Additional Data: See following pages.

<sup>1</sup> See also the following references:  
Kimball, F., Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and  
of the Early Republic, figures 142 and 180.  
See Gardens of Colony and State, vol. 1, 406.  
See Hamlin, T.F., The American Spirit in Architecture, 128.

District #27 - 21

April 28, 1934.

THE JUDGE SAMUEL DEXTER HOUSE

ANN ARBOR STREET

DEXTER, MICHIGAN

Erected in 1842

The following article was published in the Detroit News

December 1, 1931.

GREEK ARCHITECTURE IN PIONEER HOMES

By Howell Taylor

Perhaps Judge Samuel Dexter had seen Thomas Jefferson's famous home, "Monticello", in Virginia, when he chose the site for his country seat near Dexter, Mich., for the two have many features in common. Occupying as the Dexter house does a commanding position at the top of a gently sloping hill several hundred yards from the main road, with its two-story portico and pediment, it is not unlike "Monticello", which, it will be remembered, rests at the summit of a good-sized mountain and has its front entrance protected by a hospitable, high-columned porch.

Then, too, there was presidential influence connected with the project, since one of the designers and builders for Judge Dexter was no less than Calvin Fillmore, the brother of the President. With him as a partner was his son-in-law, Sylvester Newkirk, father of Judge Newkirk, now mayor of Ann Arbor. These two designed and constructed many a fine house in the surrounding district over a period of several years, and numbers of these still remain as convincing proof of the inherent good taste in architecture of the times.

When Mrs. Dexter attached a queer, tower-like structure to this lovely old dwelling in the seventies, however, she well-nigh ruined it architecturally.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
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MICH

81. DEX.V

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DEXTER, MICHIGAN

Contrary to popular belief that the Greek revival in architecture started in Europe,\* it is now well recognized that President Jefferson, who, in addition to his many other accomplishments, was a distinguished architect, first conceived the idea of using the Greek temple form for secular buildings. Judge Dexter's house is typically a Greek revival expression, comfortable and hospitable, more or less sprawling, but dignified and beautiful, unusually well-suited to its first owner, who was a man of culture and refinement, a leader and pioneer organizer, and the first judge of Washtenaw County.

J. Philip McDonnell

H.A.B.S. Member

\*See Major: Domestic Architecture of the Early Republic for truth on this subject.

Revised 1936 H.C.F.